

I Peter 2:13-17 Christian Politics



- I have never been a very political person, but today we are getting political
- If you have been at ICC long enough, you know that we don't talk about politics, we don't publically support or denounce any political person
- Today, we will talk about politics, Godly politics



I. Submit to the Government Vss. 13,14



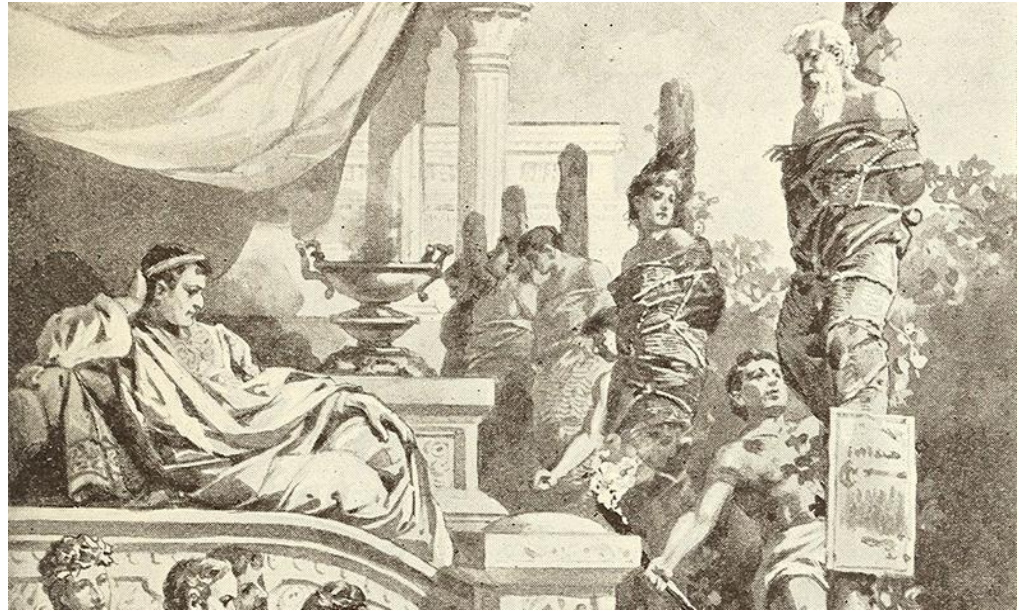
- Peter and the Christians were living in a time when Christians were treated badly. That is really an understatement
- Christians were a small religious group that were looked at suspiciously
- Why are these people following this man Jesus?



- Peter tells the Christians to submit to a king that was corrupt
- The Roman Emperor at that time was Nero
- He reigned from 54 AD-68 AD,



- By 64 AD there were many Christians that were persecuted
- The famous fire of Rome was blamed on Nero
- Then he blamed the Christians for starting the fire
- And burned many Christians on crosses



- Paul was killed in about 64 AD
- And Peter himself was hung on a cross in Rome in 64 AD
- How did Christianity survive such severe persecution?
- There were not that many Christians at this time



- People were willing to go to jail for their faith
- People were willing to die for Jesus
- The Christians did not deny Jesus
- Christians knew that this world was not the end
- Christians knew that heaven was waiting for them



Paul says something similar in Romans 13:1,2

1 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. **2** Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

- The only time you don't submit is when it goes against your faith
- If they tell you to deny Jesus
- You don't deny Jesus, but face the consequences
- Which many Christians did then and have throughout history



- We need to realize that the government gives order to society
- There would be chaos without government
- Lawbreakers, murderers and thieves are punished
- Good people are at times rewarded for obeying the law



II. It is a Testimony to Submit to the Government Vs. 15



Testimony

- The reason that we submit ourselves to the government is that it will silence the talk of people that think Christians are radical troublemakers
- Christians are the best citizen that a country can have



III. Living a Good Testimony in Other Ways

Vss. 16,17



- As Christians we are free, we are no longer slaves to sin
- Jesus made us free by forgiving our sins, giving us eternal life
- He gave us a new life
- But that doesn't mean that we are free to do whatever we want to do
- ***Being forgiven doesn't mean we are free to sin***



- In fact, Christians are to say, I am a servant of God
- The word servant in Greek is slave
- We think of a servant as hired, but a slave is owned
- As a Christian, I am to choose to be God's servant



- I want to have a good testimony
- And we can do this by showing *proper respect to everyone*
- We can look down on those with less education, less money, or those who are younger than us but everyone deserves respect



got respect?

- And *love the brotherhood of believers*
- That is, especially love Christians.
- Because we are a part of the family of God we are brothers and sisters.



- To *fear God* sounds so fearful
- But I want to explain that God is the awesome God
- The creator of Heaven and earth
- And God is my heavenly Father, and I talk to God as to a close father. But there is also a deep deep respect for God



- And finally, *honor the king*
- Even if he is like Nero, an evil man
- You will probably never meet the president of your country
- But you can honor him
- God put him there



Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority

Por causa del Señor, obedezcan a toda autoridad humana, ya sea al rey porque es el que tiene más autoridad

Tiini kila kiamriwacho na watu, kwa ajili ya Bwana; ikiwa ni mfalme, kama mwenye cheo kikubwa

为了主的缘故,你们要服从人的一切制度;无论是在上的君王
인간에 세운 모든 제도를 주를 위하여 순복하되 혹은
위에 있는 왕이나

Сонымен, сендер Жаратқан Иенің меншігі болғандықтан, Ол тағайындаған әрбір билік иесіне мойынсұныңдар! Елдің басшысы ретінде патшасына бой ұсыныңдар

I have never been a very political person, but today we are getting political
If you have been at ICC long enough, you know that we don't talk about politics, we don't publically support or denounce any political person
Today, we will talk about politics, Godly politics

I. Submit to the Government Vss. 13,14

Peter and the Christians were living in a time when Christians were treated badly. That is really an understatement
Christians were a small religious group that were looked at suspiciously
Why are these people following this man Jesus?
Why are they meeting together and talking about living righteous lives?
Why are they drinking blood and eating the flesh of Jesus?
This was symbolic talk, they were eating bread and drinking wine
And these Christians no longer worship the Emperor
They only want to worship this man Jesus from Judea
Jesus wasn't even from Rome, but a remote part of the Roman Empire
At a time when adultery, cheating, murder, and all kinds of sin was common in the Roman Empire, Christians were living good lives
And the Christians were odd people, different people in the Roman Empire
Peter tells the Christians to submit to a king that was corrupt
The Roman Emperor at that time was Nero
He reigned from 54 AD-68 AD,
Only 17 years old when he became Emperor, young and inexperienced
In 55 AD he had his step brother Britannicus poisoned to get rid of any competition for the throne
His mother who helped get him to the throne, he also killed in 59
She wanted to rule through her son, Nero
By 64 AD there were many Christians that were persecuted
The famous fire of Rome was blamed on Nero
He did not like the old buildings of Rome
He wanted to build a huge building called the "Golden House"
It was a building that stretched out over 30 or more acres
And was used as a place to have parties, decadent parties

So many blame Nero for the fire that burned many days
Then he blamed the Christians for starting the fire
And burned many Christians on crosses
Even the Romans felt sorry for the Christians
From 64 AD -68 AD he had many Christians persecuted
Animals that ate or tore apart the Christians
Paul was killed in about 64 AD
And Peter himself was hung on a cross in Rome in 64 AD
How did Christianity survive such severe persecution?
There were not that many Christians at this time
And you would think that the persecution would discourage others from becoming Christians, yet many more became Christians
It was the testimony of many Christians living day to day
It was their devotion to Jesus that drew many people to put their faith in Jesus.
People were willing to go to jail for their faith
People were willing to die for Jesus
The Christians did not deny Jesus
Christians knew that this world was not the end
Christians knew that heaven was waiting for them
Christians knew that Jesus was the truth
And they wanted to follow the teachings of Jesus
Even though this Emperor and these Governors would persecute the Christians, Peter says submit to them
Paul says something similar in Romans 13:1,2
1 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. 2 Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.
These men and women put in government by God
And yes some of them are corrupt, all are sinful
And some of them make decisions to make life difficult for Christians
If you are able to vote them out of office, then do so
But for the Christians in Peter's day, that wasn't an option
Christians had to submit and we will get to the reason why shortly
The only time you don't submit is when it goes against your faith

If they tell you to deny Jesus
You don't deny Jesus, but face the consequences
Which many Christians did then and have throughout history
But in obeying the laws and paying taxes we need to submit
We need to realize that the government gives order to society
There would be chaos without government
Lawbreakers, murderers and thieves are punished
Good people are at times rewarded for obeying the law

II. It is a Testimony to Submit to the Government Vs. 15

The reason that we submit ourselves to the government is that it will
silence the talk of people that think Christians are radical troublemakers
Christians are the best citizen that a country can have
Remember last week, we talked about Christians living good lives
They are the best neighbor that a person can have
I would think that a country would want Christians because we are the
best law abiding citizens that a country can have
And it is a testimony to the government officials and the other citizens
that these Christians are good people to have around
As Christians do good and submit to the government how can people say
anything bad?

III. Living a Good Testimony in Other Ways Vss. 16,17

There were 2 type of people in Roman society, free people and slaves
The slaves had no rights, they were owned by someone
Slaves could not do whatever they wanted to do, or go wherever they
wanted to go
They did whatever they were told or would be beaten
Free people, Roman citizens were free to go and do what they wanted
As Christians we are free, we are no longer slaves to sin
Jesus made us free by forgiving our sins, giving us eternal life
He gave us a new life
But that doesn't mean that we are free to do whatever we want to do
Being forgiven doesn't mean we are free to sin so God can forgive us
Don't think, God will forgive me, therefore I can do evil
And as a Christian thinks about his testimony, he is free to live a good life
In fact, Christians are to say, I am a servant of God
The word servant in Greek is actually slave
We think of a servant as hired, but a slave is owned

As a Christian, I am to choose to be God's servant and therefore I want to
do the master's will, God's will, I want to have a good testimony
And we can do this by showing ***proper respect to everyone***
Sometimes you might think, I am of higher status than him
Therefore, I can treat him badly
We can look down on those with less education, less money, or those who
are younger than us
Everyone deserves respect, even little children, or the poor
And give respect to those who you don't agree with
Maybe politically, you don't agree with someone, show them respect
Maybe someone doesn't respect you, be kind to them
And ***love the brotherhood of believers***
That is, especially love Christians.
Because we are a part of the family of God we are brothers
and sisters. As I have been a Christian for many years
It is amazing how I can meet another Christian that I have never
known and there is an instant bond
That is Jesus in our lives
As I have traveled the world there are times that I have met other
Americans and you would think there would be a bond
You know, we speak the same language, been to the same places
But that isn't the case
Christians all have a faith in Jesus and we are part of God's family
And we will know each other into eternity
And as we love the brotherhood of believers, that is a testimony
To ***fear God*** sounds so fearful
But I want to explain that God is the awesome God
The creator of Heaven and earth
And God is my heavenly Father, and I talk to God as to a close father
But there is also a deep deep respect for God
Yes, a healthy fear of God
And finally, ***honor the king***
Even if he is like Nero, an evil man
You will probably never meet the president of your country
But you can honor him
God put him there